



Rev. Samuel May
Leicester

Mass.

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Brookline, Feb. 11th 1880.

Rev. Samuel May.

My Dear Sir,

Many thanks for the book, delivered me yesterday by Mr. Russell, which I am glad to have, & glad also to receive from you.

Trusting to your interest in the subject, I will repeat to you what I wrote to Oliver, that, if he made corrective alteration in subsequent editions, he might give due credit to Richard Hildreth, the author of the first anti-slavery novel.

On p. 377, Oliver mentions Hildreth's "White Slave" after "Uncle Tom's Cabin". It is true that the White Slave did not appear until 1852, while Mrs. Stowe's great work was published in the National Era in 1850-51.

But it is also true that The White Slave was an enlargement & republication of "Archy Moore", a book inferior

in no respect whatever to Uncle Tom, & superior to it in one particular, namely, the freedom & boldness of its exposure of the abuses of the sexual relation under slavery.

"Archy Moore" was written in 1835, while its author was resident in the slave country, & was published in Boston in 1837. But, besides its intense interest as a tale, & its faithful delineation of manners, customs & characters under slavery, it is eminently noteworthy from the fact that no Boston publisher dared put his name to it. The first edition appeared without any designation of author or publisher; and it was not until years afterwards that the 2^d edition appeared with the imprint of Whipple & Damrell, Cornhill, the publishers of L. M. Sargent's Temperance tales.

It seems to me that the avoidance,

by the whole publishing interest of Boston, of a work of such merit, by an author so favorably known as Mr. Hildreth was to the worlds of politics & literature, is a mark of the dominance of the slave-power in Boston not less significant than the State Street mob itself. If you think as I do about it, I dare say you may have opportunity to mention Mr. Hildreth's merits in this matter, to those who have forgotten or have never known them.

At present, I think we both shall do well to make the admirable character of "A Fool's Errand" known as widely as possible. I dare say you saw an extended eulogy upon it which appeared editorially in the Daily Advertiser last November. Rumor refers the authorship of the book to a Judge Tourgee of South Carolina. If any certain

knowledge of the fact should reach
you, I should be glad to be in-
formed of it.

Mrs. Whipple joins me in kind
regards to Mrs. May & yourself.
Believe me

Yours faithfully
Charles K. Whipple.